

PRESIDENT: Senator Warner, to speak on the proposed amendment by Senator Nichol.

SENATOR WARNER: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, the recommendation from the committee for the entire displaced homemakers program is \$184,906. The current year's appropriation was \$178,000. They had a 3.7 percent increase for the agency. We had requests from a variety of advocacy type agencies for expansion. As I recall no expansion was done anywhere. Again, in light of tight budget why there was not and is not funds to further expand some of these services. I'm not arguing that any of them aren't deserved or necessary. In fact I can't really think of a bad request that we had. The only problem is you don't have the money and we can add this as well as other services, but if you'd want to do that why obviously you're not going to stay within the existing rates which may not be a problem. I predicted this morning that we probably wouldn't anyway. But if you want to, why one of the ways you can do it is not make additions to the budget. My opinion, what we have done is given this entire activity a fairly decent adjustment, but there is no growth as there is no growth in many areas.

PRESIDENT: Senator Higgins.

SENATOR HIGGINS: Thank you, Mr. President. I would just like to say that the displaced homemakers shelter that we have in Omaha is filled constantly. It's primarily used by abused women whose husbands throw them out of the house who have reached the point where they can take no more beatings or mental abuse and they have no where to go with their children too. And for this reason I think if Omaha has it and, Senator Nichol, I didn't know if you said Grand Island has it or not...Grand Island has it, so those people in the western, the far western part of the state, the nearest shelter for them would be Grand Island and that, too, could be filled although I'm not aware of how much it is used. But I'm sure that with Omaha constantly being filled, that Grand Island is probably used quite a bit also by these displaced homemakers, therefore, I would support the amendment of Senator Nichol's and ask for that \$30,000. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Is there further discussion on the Nichol